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Sports and Tournaments Coming to the Y

By Barb Beckett
YMCA Program Director

This coming season's sports and tournaments at the YMCA will create new opportunities and continue long standing traditions of athletic play. Some of the Y's great sports for all ages include:

Pickleball: One of the fastest growing racquet and court sports is pickleball, attracting adults of all ages to this fast-paced game. Played on a mini-tennis court with a wiffle-type ball and wood or composite paddles, it is fun for beginners and experienced players alike. Join in the fun Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on the Y's four indoor Pickleball courts. All skill levels welcomed to come and play!

YMCA Gymnastics: Blessed with a great facility and great instructors, Y Gymnastics continues to train one year olds to high school ages in recreational and state-ranked competitive movement. The program continues with offerings for beginners, intermediate and advance classes. Contact the Y Gymnastics Center for more information at 929-2869. The Center is located at 1100 Woodmere, Suite A, in Traverse City.

YMCA Tennis: With one of the finest teaching staffs in our region, Y Tennis remains one of the strongest programs we offer. Contract time, lessons and leagues are always popular, so call ahead to check availability. Y members enjoy free tennis from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. and may reserve courts. Check out our new adult Cardio Tennis class.

YMCA Pee Wee Sports: This is basic skills program for three to five year olds to give kids a broad overview of the basics of popular sports. During six weekly classes, children will experience soccer, lacrosse, basketball, and more. Class is never boring and always includes more than one sport/activity. Classes are held at the main YMCA Facility on Racquet Club Dr.

YMCA Youth Basketball Leagues: League basketball for **Boys** in grades two through five will run for six Saturdays beginning November 12 through December 17. **Girls** Leagues begin January 14 - February 18 for six Saturdays. Participants will play one game per week—either morning or afternoon—at a YMCA gym. Registration fee per player is \$70 for the public and \$35 for YMCA members. Leagues are both skill oriented with actual games being played as well. All players receive a game jersey and all games are officiated by adult referees.

Tournaments:

Blizzard Tournament: January 28, 2012 is the date for the ever-popular “Blizzard” youth full-court team basketball tournament, for boys’ teams in grades 7 and 8. Hosted at several Traverse City-area gyms, this tourney fills up quickly with teams from around the north region. After their school season ends, this is a great way to keep on playing! Registration is due by January 16, but teams are encouraged to register early.

Winter Jam Tournament: The “YMCA Winter Jam,” our adult men’s tournament, continues to be the biggest and best tournament of its kind in the north. Slated for February 4-5, 2012, it finishes on Sunday just in time for everyone to make it home for the Super Bowl game. Registration is due by January 23, but teams are encouraged to register early.

Midnight Madness Tournament: The YMCA “Midnight Madness” 3-on-3 basketball tournament is still the most popular and will be held March 16, 2012. Play begins on Friday at 5 p.m. and ends around midnight. Registration is due by March 8, but teams are encouraged to register early

These tournaments are held at the YMCA Main Facility. Contact Barb Beckett at 933-YMCA for more information and sponsorships.

For more information about these or any of the Grand Traverse Bay YMCA program or membership offerings, call the front desk at 933-9622, visit our website at www.gtbayymca.org, newsgtbayymca.blogspot.com, become a friend on our Facebook page, or email us at info@gtbayymca.org.

Barb Beckett is the YMCA Sports Director and is responsible for all sports skills, teams, and leagues for the Y. She administers the largest athletic program in Northern Michigan and can be reached at 933-9622.